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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/048,225	07/31/2002	John Scott Lloyd	056222-5009	3010
9629	7590	03/21/2005	EXAMINER	
MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP			WHISENANT, ETHAN C	
1111 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
WASHINGTON, DC 20004			1634	

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/048,225

Applicant(s)

LLOYD ET AL.

Examiner

Ethan Whisenant, Ph.D.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 JUL 02 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 29 JAN 02.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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NON-FINAL ACTION

1. The applicant's Preliminary Amendment filed 29 JAN 02 has been entered. Following the entry of the Preliminary Amendment, **Claim(s) 1-17** is/are pending.

SEQUENCE RULES

2. This application complies with the sequence rules and the sequences have been entered by the Scientific and Technical Information Center.

35 USC § 112- 2ND PARAGRAPH

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

CLAIM REJECTIONS under 35 USC § 112- 2ND PARAGRAPH

4. **Claim(s) 12-17** is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim(s) 12, 16 and 17 are indefinite because there is no nexus between the preamble and the claim steps. Claims 12, 16 and 17 in their preambles each direct to a method which is to accomplish a particular goal. However, none of the claim steps states that this goal is accomplished. For clarity, claimed methods should recite that the purpose of the method has been attained (i.e. provide a nexus between the preamble and the claim steps).

In addition, **Claim 16** is indefinite because it is dependent on itself, therefore it cannot be

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determined what method is being claimed. Claim 17 is dependent on Claim 16 therefore, the exact method being claimed in claim 17 cannot be determined. Furthermore the phrase(s) "the sample" and "the template portion of the first probe," present in both of Claims 16 and 17 lack proper antecedent basis. Finally, Claim 16 is indefinite because of the phrase "as defined above." It is unclear to which definition the applicant refers.

35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that may form the basis for rejections set forth in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

or

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

6. The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102

7. Please note that following prior art rejection(s) have been made in view of the ambiguity of

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Claim 16.

8. **Claim(s) 16-17** is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cardy et al. [WO93/06240 (1993)].

Claim 16 is drawn to a method of detecting in a sample the presence of a target nucleic acid sequence. Said method is to comprise two steps. To begin, a first and a second probe are contacted with a sample comprising said target nucleic acid sequence wherein hybridization of said first and second probe with said target nucleic acid sequence forms a complex. Finally, RNA transcripts of the template portion of the first probe are detected directly or indirectly.

Cardy et al. teach a method comprising all of the limitations recited in Claim 16. See, at least, for example, Figure 2 and the second full paragraph on page 17.

Claim 17 is drawn to a method of detecting in a sample the presence of a target nucleic acid sequence. Said method is to comprise two steps. To begin, a first probe and a second probe with the sample so as to form a complex, wherein the first probe comprises in the 5' to 3' direction, a template portion transcribable by an RNA polymerase, a template strand of an RNA polymerase promoter, and a target complementary portion which is hybridised to at least a 3' end region of the target sequence, and the second probe comprises part of the non-template strand complementary to the template strand of the promoter present in the first probe. Finally, RNA transcripts of the template portion of the first probe are detected directly or indirectly.

Cardy et al. teach a method comprising all of the limitations recited in Claim 17. See, at least, for example, Figure 2 and the second full paragraph on page 17.

CONCLUSION

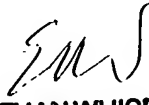
9. **Claim(s) 1-11** is/are allowable while **Claim(s) 12-17** is/are rejected and/or objected to for the reason(s) set forth above.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ethan Whisenant, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-0754. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 8:30AM -5:30PM EST or any time via voice mail. If repeated

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attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Jones, can be reached at (571) 272-0745.

The fax number for this Examiner is (571) 273-0754. Before faxing any papers please inform the examiner to avoid lost papers. Please note that the faxing of papers must conform with the Notice to Comply published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989).


ETHAN WHISENANT
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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SEARCH NOTES

17 MAR 05

Databases searched: USPATFULL, USPGPUBS and EUROPATFULL via EAST, CAplus, Medline

Search terms:

Inventor(s) : e.g. Cardy D?/au

RNA promoter\$

RNA transcription

Oligo\$ or probe? Or primer?

Hybridization